

THE PALATKA NEWS

and Advertiser.

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LEHARDY AND DAVIS CLASH IN COLLOQUY

And Turn Charter Mass Meeting into a Screaming Farce.

The mass meeting called to discuss the proposed new Palatka charter, and held at the board of trade rooms on Monday night, will go down in the history of the municipality as one of the most enjoyable exclusively male social functions of this generation.

The meeting started right. The secretary was on motion requested to read the charter, but when he arrived at 'steenthly, his vocal chords became fuzzy and he had turned the document over to the chairman; the audience saw that the chairman was also getting weak in tones and his vocal chords needed lubrication, they took pity and ordered that the reading of the last 20 columns of the charter be dispensed with, recommending instead that individuals in the audience take the charter home and read it on the installment plan.

It was then suggested that Mr. H. O. Hamm, president of the charter board, give a brief resume of the charter's provisions. This Mr. Hamm said he thought would be unnecessary as most of the people present had probably read the charter. He did, however, explain the work of the board, told how it had worked faithfully and conscientiously and had performed its best service without hope of reward. If there were any provisions in the charter not fully understood, he would be glad to explain them if called to his attention. Mr. Hamm made a good impression, and those in the audience who heard him are sure that no matter what the fate of the charter, he has performed the part of a patriotic Palatkan, giving freely of his time and talent for what he conscientiously believed would be for the city's betterment.

J. H. Yelverton, Jr., also a member of the charter board, spoke of the work of the board and his purpose to give the city a fundamental law which, while differing from those of many cities in the state, would prove an advantage to the city of Palatka. Mr. Yelverton called attention to several objections which had been raised to the charter and explained them. He did not claim that the board had tendered the people a perfect document, but he did insist that it was one that was a long way ahead of our present unsatisfactory jumble, one whose faults could easily be remedied later.

Both Messrs. Hamm and Yelverton made good impressions, and their words carried weight.

There was a pause in the proceedings.

Col. C. A. LeHardy slowly uncoiled. He reached his feet and twisted his gaze until it had penetrated all sections of the audience and finally became glued to the chairman.

In his hand he held a copy of the Postern Serial left over from a late breakfast.

M-l-s-t-e-r Chair-m-a-n—, he said, this is a wonderful document; it is one of the most wonderful documents ever evolved from the mind of man. If I could only get a clearly printed copy, something that could be read, I would send it to Washington and have it placed in the national museum of municipal documents. It is a lulu. It places the management of this city in the hands of our "best citizens"—men who can slap their chest protectors and say "now we have you pebbles on the hips—right where the hair is short, and we will run this town to suit ourselves." The initiative and referendum and recall have been left out of this charter, and if we adopt it the commissioners will have us just where they want us. O, they are some peaches, all right. Mr. LeHardy talked in this strain for some 20 minutes and he was sarcastic, vindictive, smilingly so, every second of the time. He had the house in an uproar of laughter all the time he was speaking. And let us tell you it was some speech. It was LeHardy's to the core, and yet an appeal for real democracy as opposed to autocracy.

The Honorable Howell Davis sat but a little distance from LeHardy and his blood went bubbling toward his head, making him angry.

He also arose deliberately, looked the chairman in the eye and pointed his index finger at that gentleman just like a statesman on the half-shell does when he buys his first long-tailed coat with the purpose of breaking into congress.

Mr. Davis was impressive. He started in to use his peculiar nasal twang, but as he warmed up forgot to use it, thus losing much of his power as a platform debater. He said that the charter board did not place a recall plank in the proposed charter; had they intended to do so they would have elected a socialist on the board.

Excuse us please; we could not do that address justice, and neither could we do the address of Mr. LeHardy justice. They alternated—made two speeches each, and in the course of delivery each looked the other in the eye. Davis was mad clear through; LeHardy was provokingly good natured.

In Davis' last speech he told of his knowledge of municipal matters; he was an expert and he didn't appear to care who knew it. "I have given many years to the business of the city," said he, "and there is no man who knows as much about the business of managing a city as myself, except one, and he is dead."

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLVES

That the Obnoxious Resolutions Should be Rescinded.

Pursuant to a call issued by Chairman Julian C. Calhoun, the Putnam county democratic executive committee met at the court house at 11 o'clock on Wednesday. There were some 20 members of the committee present.

Chairman Calhoun told the committee of the action of the Palatka mass meeting of democrats on Tuesday night, and recommended that the committee take some action on the matter of the resolutions passed at the recent meeting of the State Committee.

A committee consisting of W. M. Williams, W. A. Russell and L. M. Baldwin was appointed to prepare resolutions for the committee. This committee withdrew and in a few minutes reported the following:

Resolved that it is the sense of the Putnam county democratic committee that the Chairman of the State Committee should immediately reconvene his committee for the purpose of rescinding sections 4 and 5 of the resolutions adopted at the January meeting and that Col. P. J. Becks, member of the State Committee from this county be requested to attend the reconvened meeting of the committee and use his utmost endeavor for the repeal of the obnoxious resolutions.

The resolutions were adopted with but one dissenting vote, that of Mr. D. J. Coughlin.

The committee decided to assess candidates for county offices one-half of one per cent. of their first year's salary to defray the expenses of the campaign.

Chairman Calhoun, who is to be a candidate for county judge, tendered his resignation, which was reluctantly accepted. The resignation of P. M. Hagan who is a candidate for sheriff was also tendered and accepted for the same reason.

J. H. Haughton and Chas. Burt of this city were elected chairman and secretary of the county committee respectively, for the ensuing two years.

Presbyterian Church.

Rev. William Gaston, D. D., LL. D., formerly of Cleveland, Ohio, but now pastor of the San Mateo church will exchange pulpits with Rev. C. M. Alford, D. D., pastor of the Palatka Presbyterian church, next Sunday at the morning service. In the evening Dr. Alford will preach, using as his theme, "There Wrested A man With Him." Sunday school meets at 9:45 a. m. and midweek prayer service at 7:30 o'clock, Wednesday evening. A cordial invitation to all.

The County Commissioners.

The February meeting of the board of county commissioners had little at its meeting beside routine work, of which there was the usual large amount. The board completed its labors early on Wednesday. It had been the purpose to re-district the county, but this was found to be impossible except by a petition of voters, to the number of two-thirds. Several applicants were made for admission to the poor farm and several were admitted.

Correction.

The Woman's Club begs to correct the statement made in last week's issue of The News that they would hold a public reception at the Putnam House on Friday afternoon, Feb. 11th, for Mrs. W. J. Bryan.

The reception is for club members only, as the club is not in a position to entertain the number that would be present at a general reception. However, any club member may invite a guest to attend the meeting and report to treasurer with the usual fee and this will entitle them to remain for the reception.

The Reciprocity Dance.

Wednesday evening the young men of the town gave a delightful "return" dance in the Putnam House to thirty-one couples in compliment to the young ladies who gave the charming New Year, or Leap Year dance.

The banquet which was served at nine o'clock was most delicious, the tables being decorated with red carnations and greens.

The menu included oyster cocktails, turkey, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, olives, celery, a salad course, strawberry ice cream, cake and coffee.

The programs were distributed at the tables and dancing began at eleven o'clock. There were 23 dances and six extras.

The grand march was led by Miss Winnifred Haughton and James Wilkinson, Miss Helen Cochran and Geo. Selden. Beautiful costumes were worn by the ladies and it was a charming picture to the onlookers. The young men proved their ability to reciprocate in the best style.

self, except one, and he is dead."

Then came Mr. LeHardy's turn and he again turned loose his flood of loose-jointed sarcasm and in a way to plug up the holes Davis had made. It was getting late however and the people began to desert the hall, and before LeHardy got through the hour had arrived when honest married men who desire peace in the family knew they must get home—and they got.

A CONGLOMERATE MASS OF HUNGRY PATRIOTS

Composed of Three Parts Nigger to One Part White,

Make Heroic Fight for Republican Principles at State Convention of Party on Wednesday.

For Governor—George Washington Allen of Key West.

For U. S. Senator—William R. O'Neil of Orlando.

For Congressman, Fourth District—D. T. Gerow of Jacksonville.

For Presidential Electors—Morgan E. Jones of Miami, Clinton E. Spencer of Dade City, John Stoker of Quincy, Fred C. Cubberly of Gainesville, B. C. Foxworthy of Fort Myers and P. C. Stickney of Jacksonville.

Delegates to National Convention—Henry S. Chubb, Joseph E. Lee, M. B. McFarlan and Z. T. Bielby. Alternates, Eugene Oberdorfer, Rev. John R. Scott, J. A. Collier and W. M. Flicker. These are the delegates-at-large, one each will also go from the four congressional districts, as follows: First district, G. W. Bean, Tampa; Second District, L. C. Lynch, Gainesville; Third District, W. H. Northrup, Pensacola, and Fourth District, W. R. O'Neal, Orlando.

The above is the result of the Republican State Convention at the Howell Theater in this city on Wednesday.

But it wasn't all; there were some resolutions passed which stab at the very vitals of the present democratic administration, located both in Washington, District of Columbia, and Tallahassee, Florida. They left a gaping, bleeding wound, but one that doctors of democracy tell us is not necessarily fatal.

The convention was inclined to nominate Geo. E. Gay of this city for governor, but Mr. Gay said they nay; he is too busy.

The balance of the State ticket is to be made by the State Executive Committee, and it is more than likely that Mr. Gay will be named for one of the leading places, either secretary of state, or state treasurer. These do not carry with them all the honor that attaches to a nomination for governor, and neither is there so much demand for lubricants.

Chairman Chubb of the State Executive Committee called the meeting to order, and in doing so made what might be termed the ex-officio proclamation of the day. Mr. Chubb is a thriller; he is a politician of high order and upon whom the mantle of some political prophet has fallen—name not given. He is the boss of his party in Florida, and he rules with dignity and firmness. What he says goes.

Jos. E. Lee (colored) of Jacksonville was made temporary chairman, and John Stoker and H. M. Bradley, a nigger made secretaries. Lee read the call to arms.

You must hand it to Joe Lee—he is a crack-a-jack chairman. While the committee on credentials was out speeches were made by "Judge" Guber of Ocala, W. R. O'Neal, and a few others. Possibly the best speech of the day—at least the one to which most interest attached—was made by a negro named Blodgett from Jacksonville. He advised his Afro-American fellow citizens to pocket any political aspirations they may entertain and turn them over, pockets and all, to their posterity. He was a warm number.

"Judge" Guber, who hails from Ocala, and boasts a long line of democratic ancestors who are too dead to blush for their offspring, made a hit. He was only recently converted to republicanism, but the work of regeneration was evidently thorough. He told of how he had been brought into the light; how that "once he was blind, now he could see," and all men looked alike to him. He had obliterated the color line which had formerly confined this uniform resemblance to niggers. The "Judge" didn't say what he had up his sleeves, but it is evidently some good federal office which has been promised him after this period of "Watchful Waiting" is passed and republicans are again invited to sit at the table. Marion county democrats have been denying "Judge" Guber a place at the table; he has fain filled his belly with hush lunches; these, however, appear to have agreed with him. He had a look of physical culture, well-groomed. But he had a soul-longing that could never be satisfied short of official pie. He hopes for a hand-out.

Most of the white men who attended the convention from distant parts of the state had been postmasters and such like things under the pre-Wilson regime. They would return to official life, to which long service has given them a special fitness, so to speak. Earning a living in the sweat of one's brow is not to their liking. If you should ask them why they are so patriotic in their devotion to their country and the flag, they would tell you that it was because of their devotion to protection and the party of Lincoln. Also the uplift of the negro.

Negro delegates were greatly in the majority. They were most all former canes and long-tailed coats and smoked seggars. They had every outer appearance of that political ponderancy which goes to make up the trade marks of statesmanship. They looked some different from delegates to an A. M. E. Conference—the only similarity being the complexion. In the hall they occupied seats



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**"THE EUROPEAN WAR
--ITS LESSON TO US"**

Will be Theme of William Jennings Bryan's Address To-night.

William Jennings Bryan, without doubt the greatest orator on the American platform, is to deliver an address in the Howell Theater tonight under the auspices of the Palatka Woman's Club.

There is something in the addresses of Mr. Bryan that place him in a class by himself as a Chautauqua course lecturer. Boiled down, this difference consists in the fact that he is a man with a message. His addresses are an inspiration to right living and right action.

There is no man in public life in this country so feared by the enemies of the common people as Mr. Bryan. For this reason there is no man in public life who has been so greatly misrepresented and maligned by the partisan press. Independent of the fact that he has been on three separate occasions the candidate of the democratic party for president of the United States, independent of the fact that it was his influence in the Baltimore convention four years ago that brought about the nomination of President Wilson, and that he was for more than two years Secretary of State—the American premier—Mr. Bryan will go down in history as the greatest force of his generation in American politics. His real power springs from the fact that he is everywhere recognized as the great commoner. No citizen of the republic, even in a diplomatic capacity, ever received greater honors abroad than Mr. Bryan, who was received by monarchs and parliaments as a private citizen of the United States, a man who stood only as the representative of the great common people of his country.

This is the man Palatka will have the privilege of hearing tonight. The theater will be packed.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan with their grandson will arrive in Palatka this morning over the Florida East Coast Railroad from their winter home in Miami. About noon today Tom Russell will take Mr. Bryan in his Maxwell motor car to Crescent City, where he will deliver an address in the Auditorium at 3 o'clock. During his stay of a few hours in Crescent City Mr. Bryan will be entertained at a luncheon given in his honor by Miss Bessie A. Williams, president of the Village Improvement Association. He will return to Palatka in the same motor that carried him to Crescent City. On Saturday morning Mr. and Mrs. Bryan will take the Oklawaha river trip and will spend Sunday in Ocala.

W. D. Allen Dies at Dania.

Hon. William D. Allen, for many years a resident of Putnam county and for at least ten years a member of the board of county commissioners from the First district, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. E. J. W. Parrish, in Dania, Dade county last Sunday.

Mr. Allen was one of the pioneer residents of this county, a native of South Carolina. His home was at Fruitland. Some eight or ten years ago he went to the lower east coast to reside in order to be near his children. He has a son in business at Miami, and another son is Rev. W. S. Allen, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, south, at present residing at Titusville. His daughters are Mrs. Parrish and Mrs. W. J. Gautier, the latter of Miami. Many in the county will learn of Mr. Allen's death with profound sorrow. He was an aged man.

among the elect. They sat in the seats of the scornful and smoked. They formed the background with a string which circled the galleries and suggested nothing so much as a Florida republican convention.

The white delegates were there to up-lift the negro, but most of the uplifting is done by the negroes; they lift the white men into federal office, and are becoming more and more content with their job.